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Attorney's Docket No.: 17601-043001 / 067083.0205

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for drilling a well in a coal seam, comprising:
pumping a drilling fluid comprising a liquid down a drill string to a bit drilling a
substantially horizontal well bore in a coal seam; and
reducing downhole pressure exerted by the drilling fluid in the substantially horizontal
well bore.

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising reducing
down-hole pressure exerted by the drilling fluid by lightening the hydrostatic pressure of the
drilling fluid.

28. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising reducing
down-hole pressure exerted by the drilling fluid by gas lift.

29. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising reducing
down-hole pressure exerted by the drilling fluid by aerating the drilling fluid.

30. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 26, further comprising reducing
down-hole pressure exerted by the drilling fluid by circulating compressed air and mixing the air
with the drilling fluid.